



Homeland
Security

December 21, 2018

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sablan:

Thank you for your September 19, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) takes very seriously the barriers enshrined in the *Tariff Act of 1930* (19 U.S.C. § 1307) and the *Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015* [Public Law No: 114-125 (02/24/2016)] that prohibit the importation into the United States of goods sourced wholly or in part from forced labor. In response to these legislative mandates, DHS maintains several programs and procedures to assist enforcement of these prohibited activities, prevent exploitation of vulnerable people, and protect legitimate businesses. For example, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) stood up a new division focused on identification and enforcement of importations involving forced labor across industries, including the seafood industry, and continues to assess current regulations and operational processes for potential improvements or enhancements. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Homeland Security Investigations also maintains a program focused on forced labor investigations around the world (see <https://www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking>; ICE.ForcedLabor@ice.dhs.gov; ICE Tip Line at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE). DHS has further sought to foster greater interagency information sharing by providing trainings and tours of trade enforcement facilities, and standing up an interagency working group on forced labor enforcement.

We have also sought to engage with the private sector to facilitate compliance with forced labor prohibitions through, for example, via our federal advisory committee, our trade ombudsman, webinars, trade advisories, and other trainings and consultations. Members of the private sector can access numerous informational resources on forced labor via CBP's forced labor webpage (see <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/programs-administration/forced-labor>; (877) 227-5511). The most efficient way for the private sector to seek information and/or report on possible forced labor violations is to contact CBP's help desk (<https://help.cbp.gov/app/ask>).

CBP's Office of Congressional Affairs will seek to arrange a briefing with you on the Department's forced labor enforcement efforts including the outcomes from and engagements by a recent U.S. delegation that traveled to Thailand in May 2018 regarding forced labor in the Thai seafood industry. As part of that briefing, they will provide an update on new strategies and efforts to utilize information to better identify violators. If you have any additional inquiries,

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CBP's Office of Congressional Affairs can be reached at (202) 344-1760;
OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov.

Thank you for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James W. McCament". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "McCament" clearly legible.

James W. McCament
Deputy Under Secretary
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans